

SENIOR STAFF

CHRISTOPHER J. URBEN

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Christopher Urben is a Managing Director based in Nardello & Co.'s Washington, DC office. With 25 years of global investigative experience with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, Chris has an incredible track record of leading sophisticated international money laundering and threat finance investigations.

Prior to joining the firm, Chris was responsible for developing and leading sensitive global undercover DEA operations that dismantled several of the most significant transnational criminal organizations. Having extensive working relationships with the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, he is proficient in building successful cases resulting in either plea deals or convictions.

Chris worked for more than 12 years in the New York and New Jersey Divisions of the DEA. He was also assigned two DEA overseas tours in Europe totaling 10 years' experience collaborating with international law enforcement agencies. From 2004-2008, Chris did a tour in Brussels and Luxembourg with the Brussels Tri-Mission (US Embassy Brussels, US Mission to the European Union, and USNATO). From 2012-2018, Chris was Country Attaché in charge of US interests for DEA in Northern Europe (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland) and also the Baltic countries (Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia). In these roles, Chris developed an extensive global network in various fields of law, finance, and international investigations.

This global experience and network proved valuable when moving back to the US and working in the Special Operations Division, focusing on international threats. As Assistant Special Agent In Charge for Europe, Africa, Middle East, and the Far East, Chris spearheaded the strategic plan to address and thwart the evolving China threat.

Chris' career is distinguished by numerous notable investigations, including: a multi-year international undercover money laundering investigation of businesses and banks that resulted in the convictions of more than 50 people for trade-based money laundering violations; the investigation and conviction at a SDNY trial of a perfume wholesaler for conducting trade-based money laundering tens of millions of dollars for the Sinaloa drug cartel; a joint undercover investigation, trial, and decision by the Danish Supreme Court that resulted in a newly established case law that negated the agent provocateur law and allowed for more aggressive undercover investigations in Denmark; and a global investigation of Ricardo Fanchini's money laundering apparatus and his subsequent conviction.

Just the Facts

Education

- BS, Villanova University

Awards

- DEA Administrator's Award for Outstanding Achievement (2019, 2016)
- Angel Guard Star & Police Medal Lithuanian Republic Police Commissioner General (2018)
- The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana (2017)
- Regional OCDETF New York/New Jersey Award (2012)
- The Totally National Award for the Outstanding HIDTA National Task Force of the Year Award (2011)
- INEOA International Award of Honor
- FLEOA Group Achievement Award
- OCDETF Regional New York/New Jersey Award (2003)
- DEA Administrator's Group Achievement Award (1999)

Contact

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